

didn't get around to it as a Nation. It is true, as in this photograph, that this is a memorial for the D.C. veterans of World War I. It is decrepit, cracking, and the sidewalk, itself, is broken where Frank Buckles is sitting in his wheelchair when rain was coming down when this photograph was taken. So the kids raised \$13,000 to build a memorial to the World War I veterans.

I have introduced legislation to expand this D.C. memorial for all veterans of World War I. You see, those veterans don't have high-dollar lobbyists in D.C. who are advocating for a memorial for them. They just have the kids of the Nation, kids like those at Creekwood Middle School, who are doing everything they can to honor another generation, that generation that was the fathers of the greatest generation.

So I commend them for their relentless spirit and for studying American history and about American people like Frank Buckles. Their slogan was "bucks for Buckles, dough for the doughboys" to privately raise funds for this memorial. He is the lone survivor, but his voice will be heard throughout this country because David DeJonge is going to schools throughout the country on this national exhibit that started in a little place called Kingwood, Texas at Creekwood Middle School.

So God bless those kids, and God bless those doughboys who served and who went over there for the rest of us. They went to a land they did not know. They fought for a people that they had never met all because they were asked to do their duty. The American spirit and the American youth of this country should be congratulated.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPPORT 21 ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, in 2006, Congress passed the STOP Act to reduce the tragedy of underage drinking in our country.

Today, I rise to introduce the Support 21 Act of 2009, which builds upon that effort. The 2006 STOP Act provided the first Federal community grants to address under age drinking as a public health crisis.

While we are encouraged by reports of localized positive results, alcohol remains a dangerous primary drug of choice among our youth. Just listen to these statistics:

In 2007, about 10.7 million teens, aged 12 to 20, reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Approximately 7.2 million were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million were heavy drinkers. According to the latest Monitoring the Future Survey, slightly over 43 percent of twelfth graders said they had used alcohol in the past 30 days. Clearly, too many children and parents are ignoring the facts or do not fully understand the dangers that under age drinking poses.

Equally alarming is a recent movement by a group of college presidents to lower the minimum drinking age to 18. These college presidents are choosing to ignore research finding that alcohol has a potentially damaging impact on adolescent brain development.

Madam Speaker, the teenage years represent a critical window of opportunity for understanding, preventing and treating alcoholism. We know that people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence as an adult than those who wait until the age of 21. We know that each additional year of delayed drinking onset reduces the probability of alcohol dependence by 14 percent and that, if drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol-related problems is decreased by 70 percent.

For all of these reasons, I am introducing the Support 21 Act, along with my lead cosponsor, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK. Support 21 authorizes a new, highly visible media campaign to educate the public about under age drinking laws and to build support for their enforcement. Our bill directs the Institute of Medicine to report to Congress about the influence of drinking alcohol on the development of the adolescent brain.

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The legislation also authorizes grants to pediatric medical organizations in educating providers on best practices and provides supplemental grants to community coalitions to work with pediatric health care providers and parents to reduce underage drinking.

Finally, the bill provides funds for CDC to establish a new focus on underage drinking, surveillance, and prevention.

Madam Speaker, we can no longer afford to address alcohol dependence exclusively as a disease of middle age. Delaying the time when our children begin drinking until age 21 is a critical public health challenge that can offer them a safer and more productive adolescence, as well as a brighter future.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Support 21 Act of 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHAT IF?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I have a few questions for my colleagues.

What if our foreign policy of the past century is deeply flawed and has not served our national security interests?

What if we wake up one day and realize that the terrorist threat is a predictable consequence of our meddling

in the affairs of others and has nothing to do with us being free and prosperous?

What if propping up repressive regimes in the Middle East endangers both the United States and Israel?

What if occupying countries like Iraq and Afghanistan—and bombing Pakistan—is directly related to the hatred directed towards us?

What if some day it dawns on us that losing over 5,000 American military personnel in the Middle East since 9/11 is not a fair trade-off for the loss of nearly 3,000 American citizens—no matter how many Iraqi, Pakistani, and Afghan people are killed or displaced?

What if we finally decide that torture—even if called "enhanced interrogation techniques"—is self-destructive and produces no useful information and that contracting it out to a third world nation is just as evil?

What if it is finally realized that war and military spending is always destructive to the economy?

What if all wartime spending is paid for through the deceitful and evil process of inflating and borrowing?

What if we finally see that wartime conditions always undermine personal liberty?

What if conservatives, who preach small government, wake up and realize that our interventionist foreign policy provides the greatest incentive to expand the government?

What if conservatives understood once again that their only logical position is to reject military intervention and managing an empire throughout the world?

What if the American people woke up and understood the official reasons for going to war are almost always based on lies and promoted by war propaganda in order to serve special interests?

What if we, as a Nation, came to realize that the quest for empire eventually destroys all great nations?

What if Obama has no intention of leaving Iraq?

What if a military draft is being planned for the wars that will spread if our foreign policy is not changed?

What if the American people learn the truth: that our foreign policy has nothing to do with national security and it never changes from one administration to the next?

What if war and preparation for war is a racket serving the special interests?

What if President Obama is completely wrong about Afghanistan and it turns out worse than Iraq and Vietnam put together?

What if Christianity actually teaches peace and not preventive wars of aggression?

What if diplomacy is found to be superior to bombs and bribes in protecting America?

What happens if my concerns are completely unfounded? Nothing.